

House File 175 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 175

BY KLEIN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act classifying Palmer amaranth as a primary noxious weed
2 and an invasive plant and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 199.1, subsection 16, paragraph a, Code
2 2017, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

3 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (9) Palmer amaranth — *Amaranthus*
4 *palmeri*.

5 Sec. 2. Section 317.1A, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
6 2017, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

7 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (12) Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus*
8 *palmeri*).

9 Sec. 3. Section 317.25, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
10 2017, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

11 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (9) Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus*
12 *palmeri*).

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill places Palmer amaranth on the primary noxious
17 weed list and the list of invasive plants that are prohibited
18 to import, sell, offer for sale, or distribute in the state.
19 Palmer amaranth is a species of edible flowering plant that
20 is aggressive and invasive, crowding out crops such as corn,
21 soybeans, and cotton.

22 Code chapter 199 provides a list of primary and secondary
23 noxious weed seeds, provides requirements for labeling seeds
24 that are sold, classifies certified seeds, and prohibits
25 certain acts relating to seeds. Pursuant to the bill, the
26 selling of Palmer amaranth seed is a simple misdemeanor
27 pursuant to Code section 199.13 and violators may be subject to
28 criminal or civil proceedings.

29 Code chapter 317 creates standards for noxious weed control
30 for each county weed commissioner, allows county commissioners
31 to enter land in certain circumstances, and authorizes
32 commissioners to keep roads clear of noxious weeds. Pursuant
33 to Code section 317.16, a person who fails to comply with an
34 order to destroy Palmer amaranth on property is subject to
35 monetary daily fines for up to 10 days. The county where

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1 Palmer amaranth is discovered will destroy the plant and the
2 costs associated with such destruction shall be assessed to the
3 landowner under Code section 317.21.